

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 07758 150754Z

21-12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SCI-06 SCEM-02 INT-08

OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 /174 W

----- 000221

R 150610Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6621

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 7758

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MIL, LA

SUBJECT: RLG CONSERVATION OF POL PRODUCTS

1. DATT HAS OBTAINED COPY OF OFFICIAL ORDER ISSUED BY PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA DIRECTING MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE TO REDUCE POL ALLOCATIONS TO MILITARY REGIONS IN LAOS AND HEIGHTEN DISCIPLINE IN USE OF POL PRODUCTS. THE TEXT OF ORDER, DATED NOVEMBER 1, IS TRANSMITTED BELOW:

2. "SUBJECT: USE AND ISSUE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.

"1/- IT IS WELL KNOWN TO EVERY ONE THAT, IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR WHICH IS CALLED "YOM KIPPUR WAR", POL HAS TURNED OUT TO BE A WEAPON. FOR POLITICAL ADVANTAGE, THE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE ENDOWED BY NATURE WITH POL RESOURCES DECLARED A CUT IN THE PRODUCTION OF POL AND A CUT IN THE EXPORT OF POL TO OTHER CONTINENTS.

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"2/- THOUGH LAOS IS NOT A BIG COUNTRY AND DOES

NOT REQUIRE A LARGE QUANTITY OF POL FOR ITS USE,
NEVERTHELESS, THE INEVITABLE PROBLEM OF PETROLEUM
PRODUCTS SHORTAGE ALSO HAS A PROPORTINATE REPERCUSSION
ON LAOS.

"3/- FOR THIS REASON AND IN ORDER TO COPE WITH
THE CRISIS UNTIL THE SITUATION IS IMPROVED, I THERE-
FORE ISSUE THIS ORDER TO CAUTION THE COMMANDS AT ALL
LEVELS TO REALIZE THE "DANGER OF POL SHORTAGE" FROM
NOW VI.

"4/- THE C-IN-C OF THE FAR IS INSTRUCTED TO ISSUE
ORDERS TO THE MILITARY REGIONS TO CUT DOWN THE POL
SUPPLY ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE:

"-CUT DOWN THE MONTHLY ALLOTMENT OF POL BY ONE
HALF FOR RESERVE FOR 'EMERGENCIES', BECAUSE THE
SITUATION IS VERY CRITICAL AT PRESENT.

"- IN CASE AN ACTIVITY IS NOT EXTREMELY ESSENTIAL,
THE USE OF A VEHICLE WHICH CONSUMES TOO MUCH PETROLEUM
PRODUCT MUST BE AVOIDED.

"- DRIVING, USING HIGHWAYS RATHER THAN
BACK ROADS, AND USING HIGH GEAR ARE ALSO CONSIDERED
ECONOMICAL STEPS TO CONSERVE PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.

"5/- REPORT TO ME ON THE ACTION TAKEN AND THE
PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED."

3. WE BELIEVE THIS EVIDENCE OF EARLY RLG AWARENESS
OF ENERGY SHORTAGE AND EFFORTS TO REDUCE POL
CONSUMPTION IS A FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT.
DEAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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